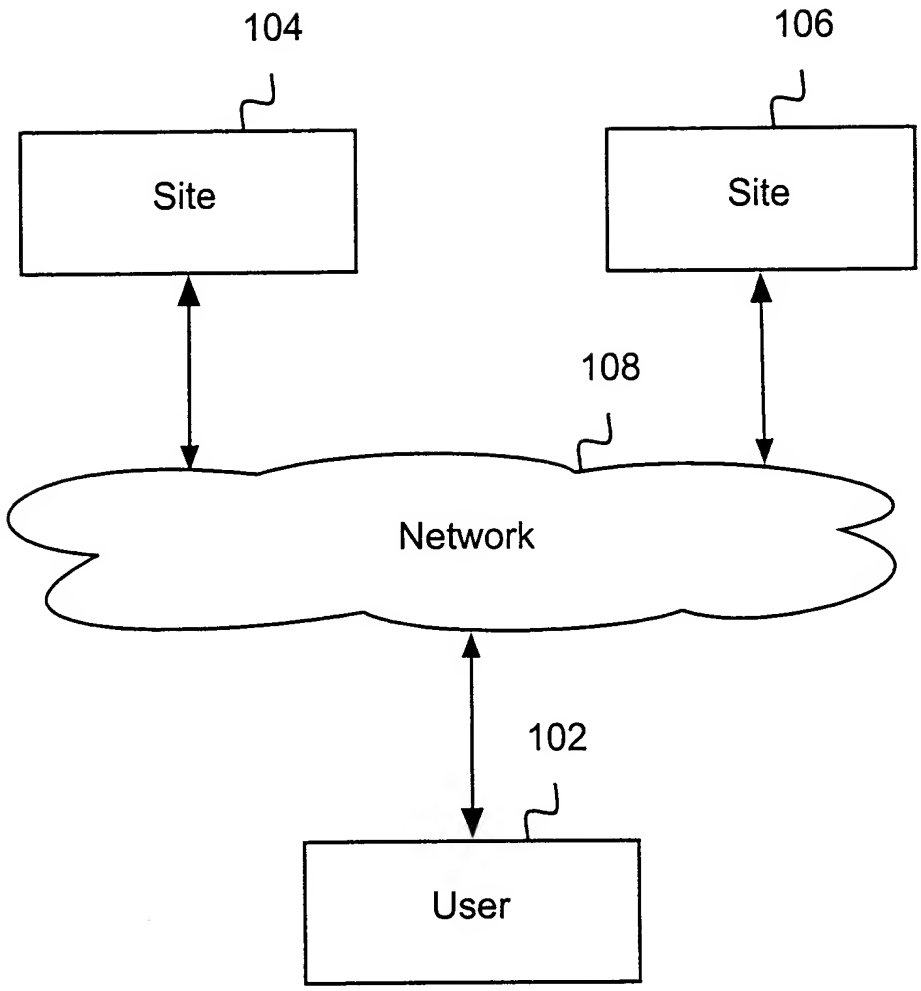

FIG. 1

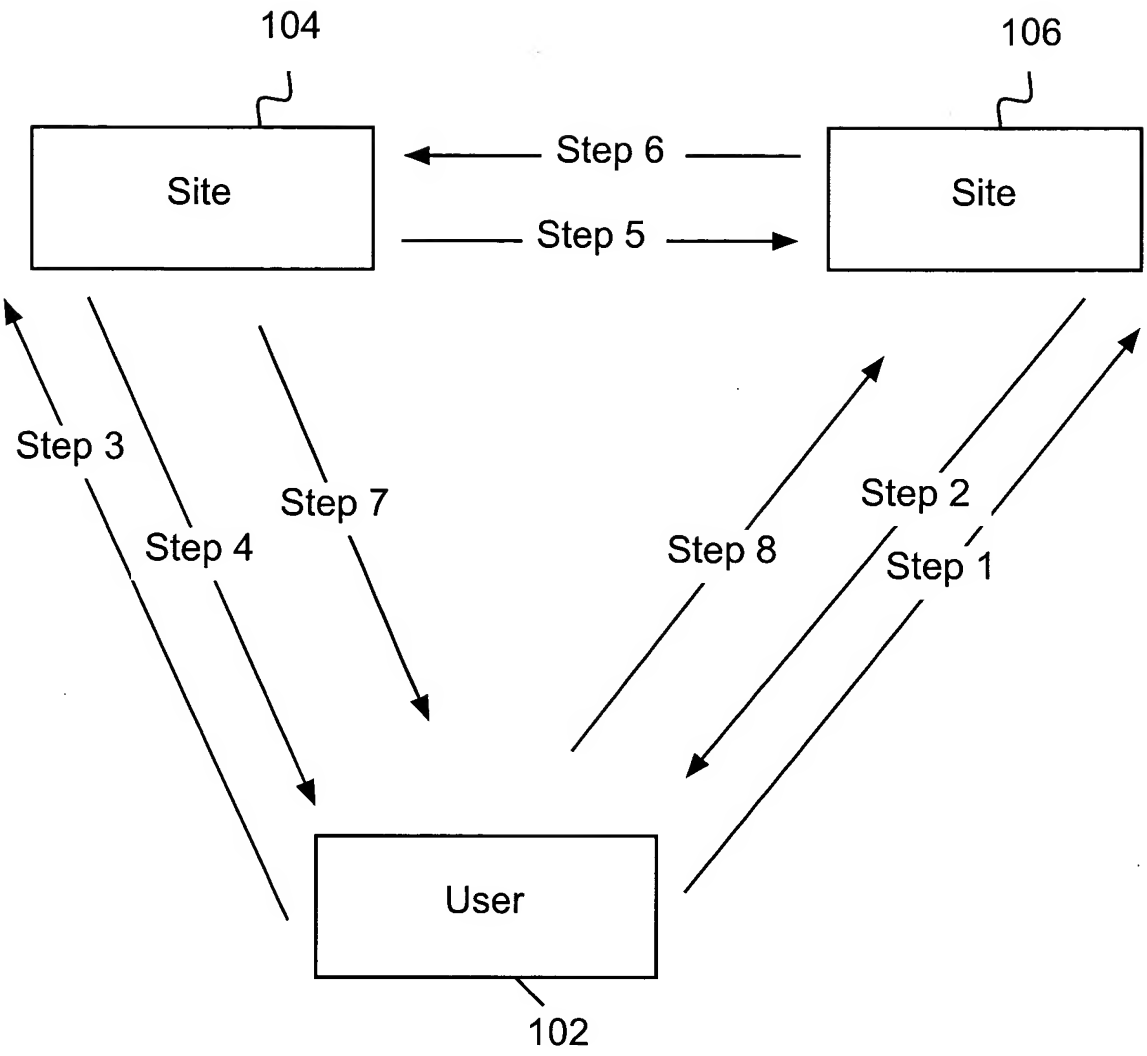
104
106
Site
Site
Step 6
Step 5
Step 3
Step 4
Step 7
Step 8
Step 2
Step 1
User
102

FIG. 2

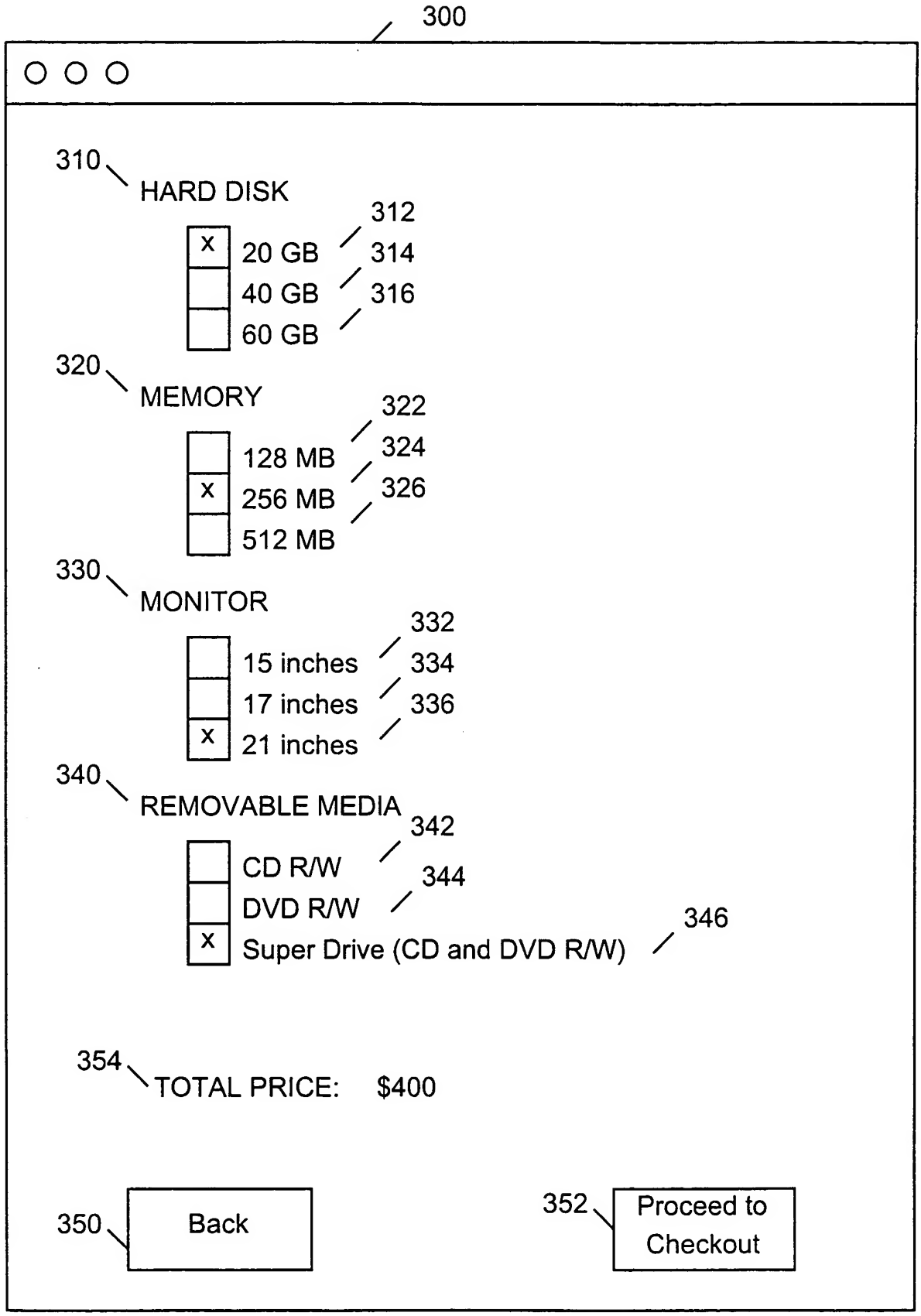
300
310
HARD DISK
312
X
20 GB
314
40 GB
316
60 GB
320
MEMORY
322
128 MB
324
X
256 MB
326
512 MB
330
MONITOR
332
15 inches
334
17 inches
336
X
21 inches
340
REMOVABLE MEDIA
342
CD R/W
344
DVD R/W
X
Super Drive (CD and DVD R/W)
346
354
TOTAL PRICE: $400
350
Back
352
Proceed to Checkout

FIG. 3A

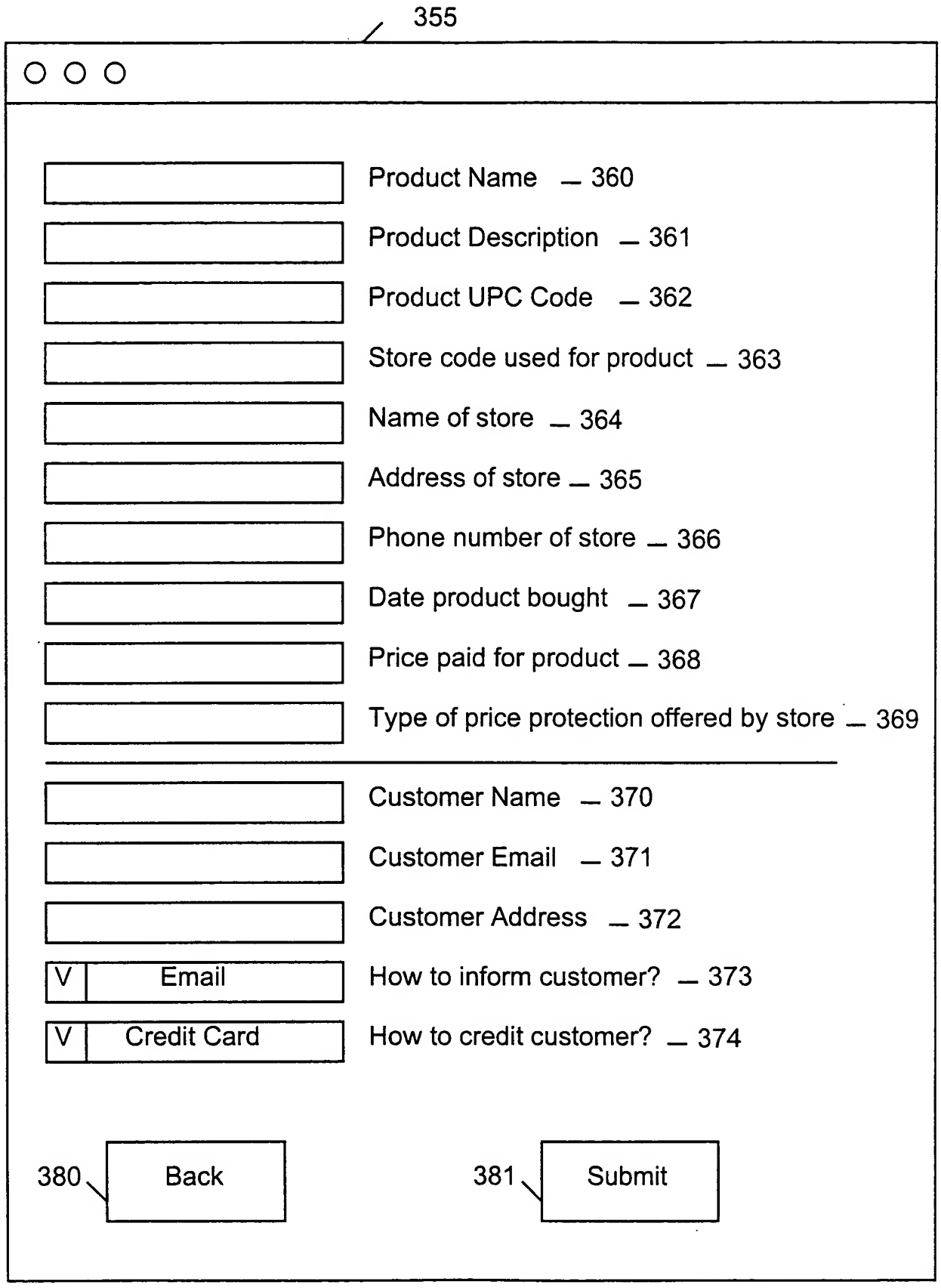
355
Product Name 360
Product Description 361
Product UPC Code 362
Store code used for product 363
Name of store 364
Address of store 365
Phone number of store 366
Date product bought 367
Price paid for product 368
Type of price protection offered by store 369
Customer Name 370
Customer Email 371
Customer Address 372
V
Email
How to inform customer? 373
V
Credit Card
How to credit customer? 374
380
Back
381
Submit

FIG. 3B

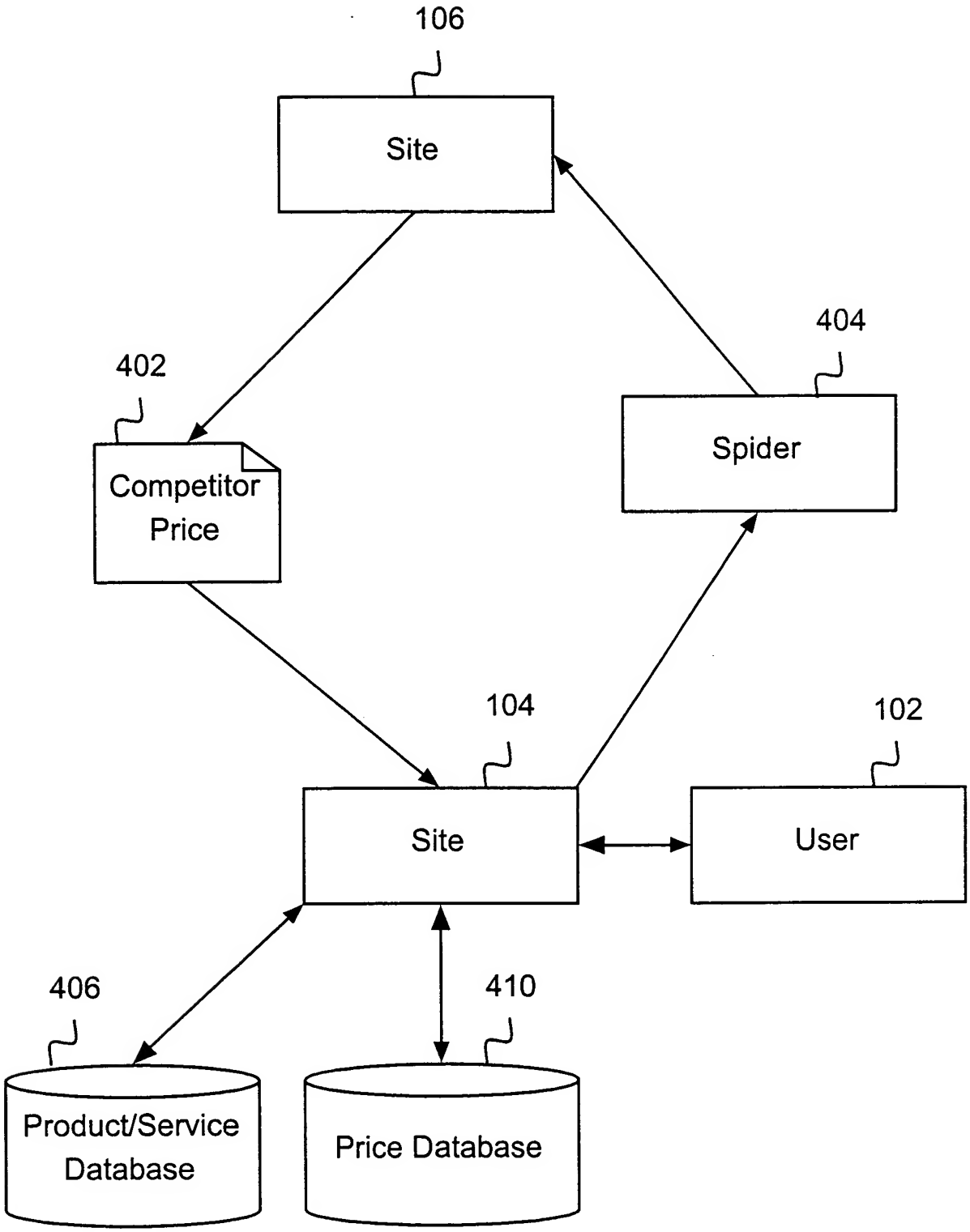
106
Site
404
402
Spider
Competitor Price
104
102
Site
User
406
410
Product/Service Database
Price Database

FIG. 4

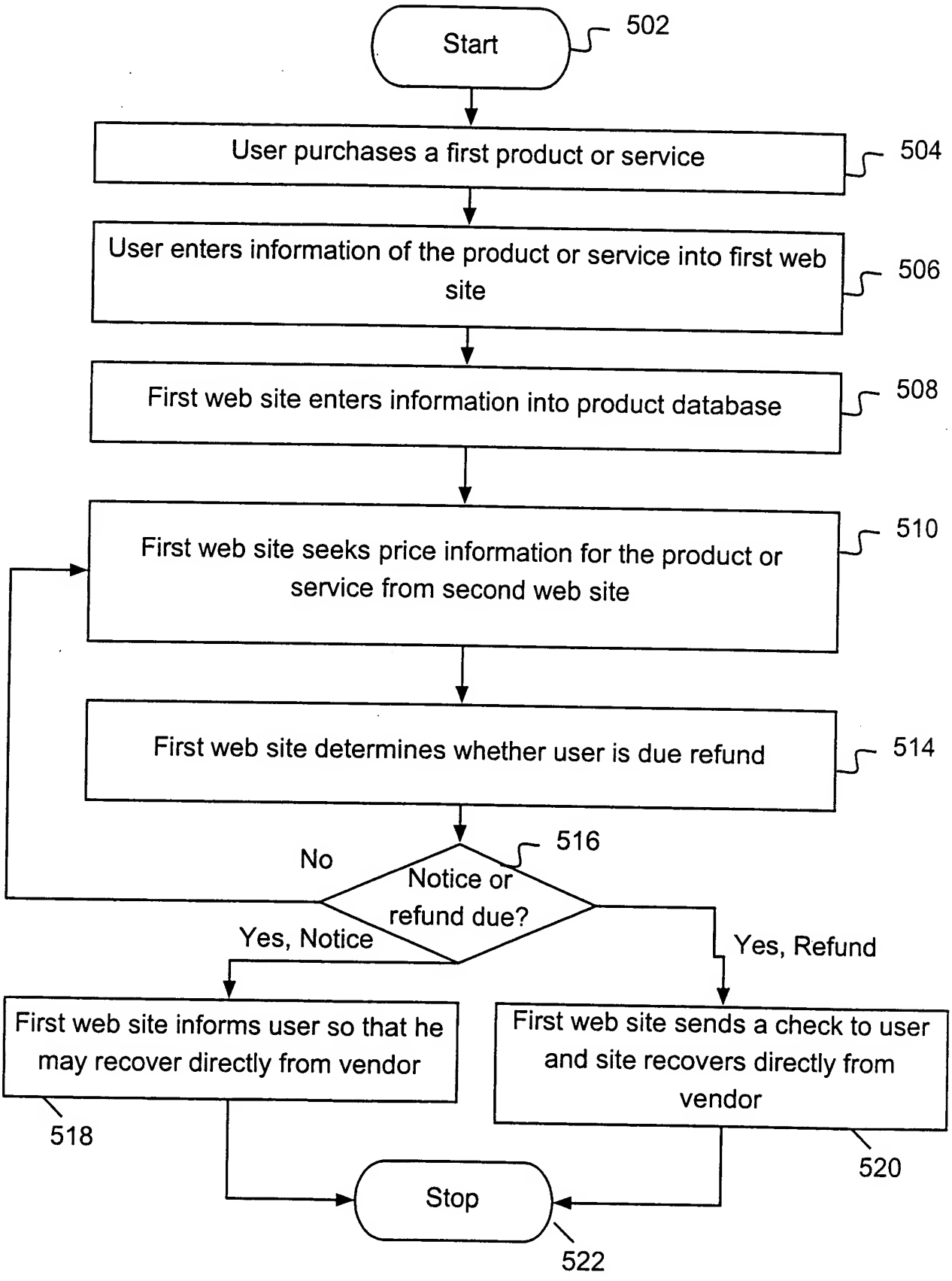
Start
502
User purchases a first product or service
504
User enters information of the product or service into first web site
506
First web site enters information into product database
508
First web site seeks price information for the product or service from second web site
510
First web site determines whether user is due refund
514
516
Notice or refund due?
No
Yes, Notice
Yes, Refund
First web site informs user so that he may recover directly from vendor
518
First web site sends a check to user and site recovers directly from vendor
520
Stop
522

FIG. 5

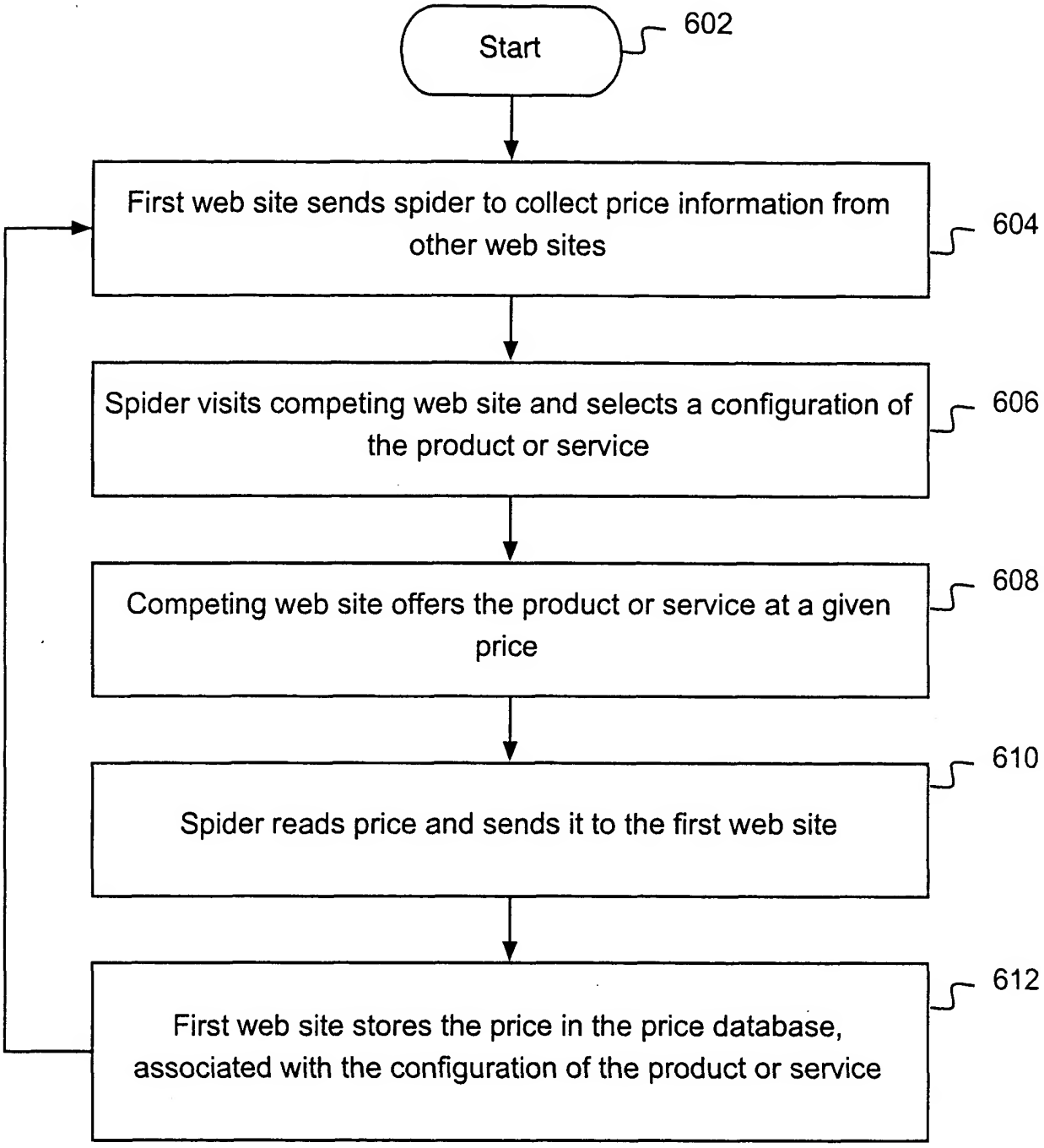
Start
602
First web site sends spider to collect price information from other web sites
604
Spider visits competing web site and selects a configuration of the product or service
606
Competing web site offers the product or service at a given price
608
Spider reads price and sends it to the first web site
610
First web site stores the price in the price database, associated with the configuration of the product or service
612

FIG. 6

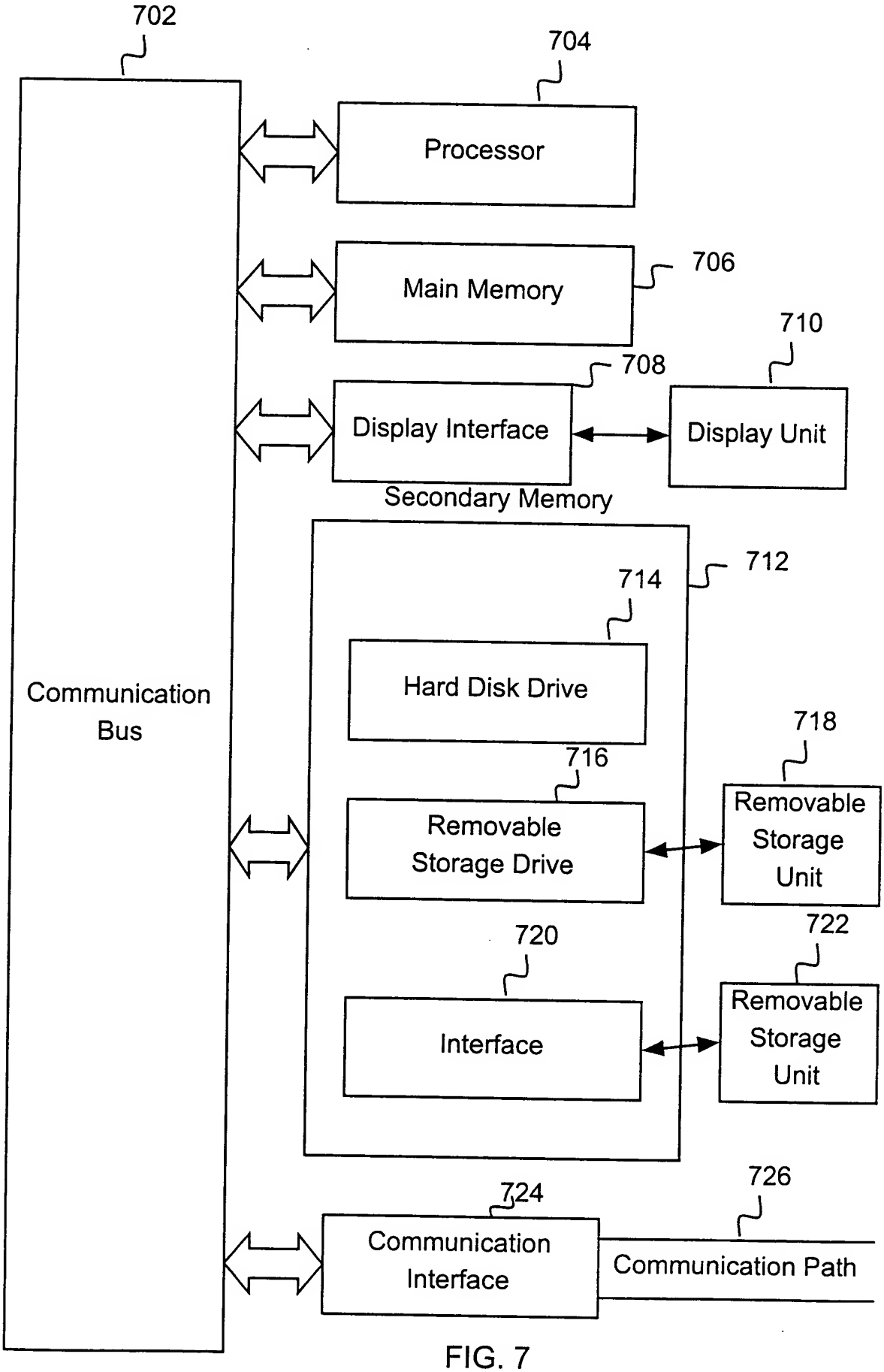
702
704
Processor
Main Memory
706
710
708
Display Interface
Display Unit
Secondary Memory
712
714
Hard Disk Drive
Communication Bus
718
716
Removable Storage Drive
Removable Storage Unit
720
722
Interface
Removable Storage Unit
726
724
Communication Interface
Communication Path

FIG. 7